

140097388

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Colorado
COUNTY:	Pitkin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 12 1975

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**ASHCROFT, COLORADO**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**ASHCROFT, COLORADO**

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
*S of Aspen in White River National Forest*

CITY OR TOWN:  
*Aspen vicinity*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08** COUNTY: **Pitkin** CODE: **051**

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Forest Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Ghost Town owned by U.S. Forest Service operated for the public interest and education.</b>

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**U. S. Forest Service**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**315 North 7th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Aspen** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Clerk and Recorder, Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**506 East Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Aspen** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

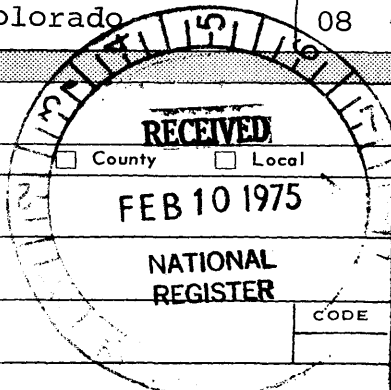
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Unknown**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

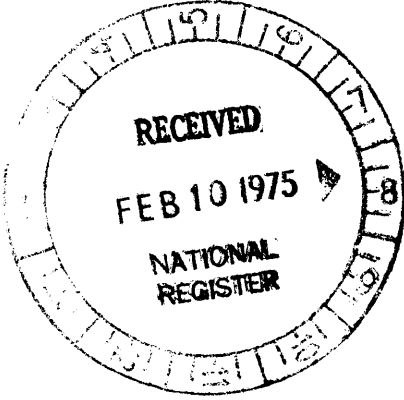
STATE:	Colorado
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The nine buildings remaining in Ashcroft are in a very deteriorated condition, having remained here since 1879 with very little maintenance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the summer of 1879, a few prospectors struggled over Taylor Pass into Castle Creek looking at ground near Hogan's Peak. Others followed prospecting all along Slate Mountain, Hogan's Peak and Copper Ridge. Due to conflicts with the Ute Indians in 1879, the men returned over the Range in search of safety.

The first settlement was made on the present townsite by a few men in June, 1880. By the end of 1880, a considerable number of people had settled here. In spite of the local Indian presence, the men dug in where the two forks of Castle Creek met, and called their location "Castle Forks". In 1880, the townsite was laid out on this spot on a placer claim known as "Chloride."

In 1881, a post office was acquired, and called Chloride. On January 3, 1882, the town's name was changed to Ashcroft, (after Thomas E. Ashcroft, one of the original party of prospectors).

In 1881, the town had a population of 500. The town boom really started in 1882, and daily mail and stage service to Aspen, Independence and Leadville was instituted.

By 1883, the town population had grown to 2,000 people. The peak population was 2,500.

The rich silver strikes in Aspen drew many of the local populace away from Ashcroft. Local transportation problems, together with a shortage of funds for the development of the mines, had a telling effect on the stability of the Ashcroft growth and prosperity.

The arrival of the railroads in Aspen had a telling effect on Ashcroft, as it was no longer necessary to transport ore by mule over Taylor and Pearl Passes through Ashcroft.

By 1890, the town had declined rapidly and most the business firms had closed.

The post office was closed November 30, 1912.  
(continued Statement of Significance on page 2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

STAMPEDE TO TIMBERLINE, Muriel Sibell Wolle  
 The Aspen Times, Aspen, Colorado 1881 to date

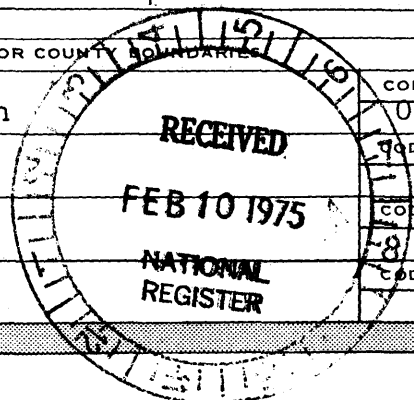
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 03' 16"	106° 47' 52"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Colorado	08	Pitkin	051
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Ramona Markalunas, President

ORGANIZATION: Aspen Historical Society DATE: 8-27-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 620 West Bleeker Street, Box 1323

CITY OR TOWN: Aspen STATE: Colorado CODE: 08

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Stephen D. Hart

Title: Colbert Press Officer

Date: 1/24/75

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ewert A. Connelley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/12/75

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/9/75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Colorado	
COUNTY Pitkin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries) Statement of Significance

Page 2

From the 1930's, Ashcroft has been recognized as a true Colorado ghost town.

Only a few of the prospectors remaining in Ashcroft to enjoy "The Paradise of the Elk Mountains" until their deaths in the 1950's.

Its primary significance is that it is one of the few remaining "True Colorado ghost towns".

